

was short and accommodating but did not address the municipal issue, and it reminded the whites that they were not in a position to dictate to the rest of the community. After the response was drafted, Armond Scott, a young attorney, was given the responsibility for delivery of the reply to Waddell's home by the appointed hour. However, as Scott began to walk towards Waddell's home, he encountered large numbers of hostile armed whites in the neighborhood. Scott, along with several members of the CCC, then took the letter to the post office for delivery instead. As Scott was attempting to deliver the letter, other members of the CCC tried to find Frank Manly, Alex Manly's brother, to encourage him to leave and take the *Record* with him since they thought Alex was already gone. Another member of the CCC met with Rountree and informed him that "everything was all right" because an appropriate response had been drafted and delivered to Waddell. Furthermore, those in the black community felt that peace would prevail because the contents of the letter were also made public even as they were supposedly being delivered to Waddell.⁷⁵

The late afternoon meeting between the white and black factions of the city was reported in the morning papers, along with the understanding that Manly was already out of the city, never to return again and that a formal reply was expected early in the morning from the CCC.⁷⁶ Further effects of the citizens' meeting on the ninth appeared in the *Messenger* in a small announcement that the *Record* had suspended publication, and the "outfit of the company will be turned over to creditors and the affairs of the paper will be closed up at once." In addition

to speculation about Manly, the *Messenger* printed a rumor that some of the members of the Board of Aldermen had decided to resign. Further, the paper suggested that a solution for changing the face of the board would present itself.⁷⁷

Yet another stressful, sleepless night was ahead for many of Wilmington's citizens of both races. White sentries patrolled the town while others planned their next step. A group of whites in front of the First Baptist Church and resolved to destroy the printing offices of the *Record* and to lynch Manly if the demands of the White Declaration of Independence were not met. These men decided to use the citizens' Vigilance Committee established by Roger Moore to station men throughout the town in the event of violence while the press was being destroyed. They also decided that Roger Moore would lead the march upon the press if need be.⁷⁸

The mass meeting with the public presentation of the White Declaration of Independence, combined with the inflamed attitudes of those in attendance, gave the Secret Nine opportunity to enact its plan to overthrow the city government. Although the state and county were firmly in the hands of Democrats, the municipal government was not slated for replacement through the ballot box until the following spring. It was the judgment of leading white citizens that a complete overhaul of city government was

⁷⁷ *Wilmington Messenger*, November 10, 1898.

⁷⁸ Although the meeting was held outside the church, its new pastor, Rev. Blackwell, was a hearty supporter of the white supremacy campaign, and following the violence on the tenth and his views were quoted in the *Raleigh News and Observer*. Additional information on this clandestine meeting is apparently found in P. B. Manning's letter to E. S. Tennet, originally filed with the Louise T. Moore Papers at the New Hanover County Public Library. The letter has disappeared and references to the meeting and its plans as detailed are found in McDuffie, "Politics in Wilmington," 687. *News and Observer* (Raleigh), November 15, 1898.

⁷⁵ McDuffie used a sketch written by Armond Scott entitled "Up From Hell" that was in the possession of Scott's widow in Washington, D.C. McDuffie, "Politics in Wilmington," 686; Rountree, "Memorandum."

⁷⁶ McDuffie, "Politics in Wilmington," 686; Rountree, "Memorandum."